

A Message from Pastor Jay

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21

This Sunday is the First Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of spiritual growth to prepare us for Easter. Lent used to be about giving up something. In recent time, it has also meant to add something to our lives. The first Sunday of Lent always recounts the temptation of Christ. The Gospel of Mark gives us a very brief account in chapter 1:9-15. Our focus on racism during Lent leads us to deal with the temptation to avoid this topic due to white fragility. The season of Lent is a chance to face tough truths and seek to grow and change. Using the book "Think Again: The Power of Knowing What We Do Not Know," we will face our white fragility and seek to change some of our thinking regarding racism. Music is provided by Brian, Jane, Ervie, Deana and on Smule - Yumi in California and Father Jaime, a Roman Catholic priest in Spain! Church Foundation president Dave serves as worship leader and shares some information about the Foundation. JJ is still tempted by his Valentine's Day chocolate and shares how he resisted.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM

let us know if you would like to be added to these email invitations

Cynthia Feuerriegel passed away this week. She was one of the members of the Ringing Bells. Pray for John and family.

EMAIL SCAM

Our church and others are experiencing fake emails being sent with an email just a little off from what it ought to be - for example, adding a 1 or deleting another letter. Information is taken from the website and not a personal email. They are not getting into my personal email but creating one close to mine. **I will never ask you for a favor or money!** Check the email closely for the right address.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 21, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: “Shepherd Me – Gathering Rite” by Marty Haugen v. 1 Brian on Smule

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Opening Prayer - Dave Foote

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the Bread of Life and the nourishment of your Word, strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you. Amen.

Hymn: “Psalm 25: To You, O Lord” by Marty Haugen Jane and Ervie – Recorded by Jim 2.1.21

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Prayer of Confession - Dave Foote

Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves. May God be with us. Let us pray:

Creating and Renewing God, in this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity so that we don't feel helpless. Help us to start over. Re-orient head and heart so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 25 - Dave Foote

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15 Pastor Jay

Hymn: "Down in River Jordan" Deana Wilson

Sermon: "Facing White Fragility" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

them: "Fill My Cup, Lord" Deana and Yumi on Smule

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

urch Foundation Report - Dave Foote

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, may these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Hymn: "Word of God, Speak" Deana and Jaime on Smule

*Benediction Pastor Jay

*Postlude: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” Fanny
Crosby Brian - Organ

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet
Worship Leader Dave Foote
Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates
Organist Brian Moore
Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant
Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson
Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy
Video Technician James Logsdon

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FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update: We have received the following “Thank You” from Kendra Hobson, pastor of the St Luke Ebony Christian Church (SLECC) in Dewey.

“Please express my gratitude to the First Congregational/UCC Church in Prescott. I’m humbled at your church family’s selfless love,-expressed through this financial donation. This will go towards mortgage number two, for our church classrooms. With this donation, we will move closer to implementing our vision statement. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.”

Our **January** mission emphasis projects highlighted both SLECC and the Prescott Community Cupboard. Following your donations, a \$625 was sent to the SLECC, and a \$665 check was sent to the Prescott Community Cupboard. Additionally, per

donor wishes, a \$500 check was sent to the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS).

PASS is our February mission emphasis project. As you know, our church family provides a monthly hot meal along with snacks, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items for women and children staying at the PASS shelter. The following is excerpted from the PASS newsletter, written by Carman Frederic, PASS Executive Director.

Wishing You a Safe and Happy New Year!

I was in the drive-thru the other day after ordering my coffee and a breakfast sandwich; I had received a gift card and thought I would treat myself. But when I got to the window the lady said, “Oh! Your order was paid for by the car in front of you!” I was thrilled to no end! I had a huge smile, and I looked to see if I could wave at the car, but it was gone. I felt like I won the lottery! My next thought was how very kind; I wondered what that person was like. I wondered if they had a smile doing that gesture for me, a total stranger. I asked the woman at the window who was behind me, and if I could pay for their order as a gift, but there was no one behind me in line at that time. I felt a little bit guilty but drove away, still with a smile and drinking my special coffee. This small act of kindness had brightened my day to no end and I had made up my mind that the next time I go through the drive-thru to use my gift card, I would pay for the person behind me!

I often think about the women and children that come through the shelter when they are in need. They are in a stressful situation, looking for any support they can find. The stress and worry clouds their minds and it is hard to make decisions.

Before arriving they may have been getting by day-by-day as they are not sure what the next day will bring. Then, something special happens, and they reach out for help at the shelter, and we can be that support system for them. The first week or two at the shelter is difficult. They move in with all of our other guests, who are strangers to them, and they have to learn our rules and expectations, and to work with staff and volunteers. But, they have a warm shower, a home cooked meal, and a nice bed. Someone is always available to talk, listen and to support them. This process begins a time of healing for people. They may slowly begin to trust, and these small acts of kindness gives them the same feeling I had when a total stranger bought my coffee. We do these things as a way to show love and care for others because we believe in the innate worth and value of every single person, and we continue to work towards our vision of imagining a community without homelessness.

Being a part of the shelter, as a staff member, volunteer, or donor, provides immeasurable aid to people in need. Not only does it help women and children heal, it truly helps them feel cared about, sometimes for the first time in their life. **I want to thank everyone who was involved with PASS in 2020. Even though it was an extremely challenging year for everyone, the generosity and thoughtfulness still shined at the shelter through all of the support we received.** I would like to thank all the donors for making it possible financially to continue to help the most vulnerable; we could not do it without the financial support. I would like to thank our volunteers, and Board of Directors for working so diligently to

operate such an effective shelter and programs. I hope that 2021 brings as much kindness as I saw here at the shelter in 2020.

Carmen Frederic
Executive Director

What A Difference a Volunteer Makes

We will never be able to put into words how grateful we are for the community support we receive! It is because of YOU that we are able to serve women and children in need. Thank you for your time, your monetary donations, your talents, and everything you do to help ensure our guests success! Below are our volunteer stats for 2020, what a difference you have made!

The value of a volunteer, according to the independent sector is \$27.20

Evening Advocate: 7 nights a week, one volunteer a night, three hours each night= 1095 hours a year, valued at \$29,784. Endless support for PASS guests=Priceless

Meal Providers: 7 nights a week, 2-5 hours per meals: 730-1825 hours a year, valued at \$19,856 - \$49,640. A full stomach of delicious and nutritious food=Priceless

Office Hours: 5 mornings a week, 3 hours each morning=780 hours, valued at \$14,144. Having a consistent presence in the community=Priceless

Overnight Advocate: 6 hours a night= 2190 hours a year, valued at \$59,568. Having someone at the shelter in case of an emergency=Priceless.

In 2019/2020, PASS experienced a growth in services of 172.7% , this was in large part because of the completion of our expansion project, and the two transitional houses we started. PASS has maintained an 87% transition rate, even with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to make adjustments that allow us to support women and families in need. Maintaining healthy housing per the CDC COVID- 19 recommendations is a priority. Our integrated programming allows us to work with guests and create a plan for their successful move to permanent housing. Current programming includes: Case Management and Advocacy Program; Wheels to Work; Homeless Transition Project; Education to Employability Program; and PASS Transitional Housing Program. Our recent challenge is that it is taking additional time and resources to stabilize our guests as they face the challenges of today's world.

Our goals for 2021 include: putting in a playground with a fence, to re-do the shower room and main bathroom, and to paint the outside of our main building so it ages at the same rate as our expansion rooms. There are plans for a mentorship program pairing guests with AAUW mentors as added support and one-on-one care for the guests. Additionally, we will start a Smile with Confidence Program that will supplement payments for our guests who need dental work and cannot afford it. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve our services, please let us know!

Thank you for helping us help others!

--Our next scheduled date for providing a PASS meal is Wednesday, March 17th. If you can help, please contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard, at 928 460 3042 or email gpgard@cableone.net.

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2] For more information, contact any of our team members. Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, or Gary Gard, chairperson.

CHURCH FOUNDATION

The congregation of the First Congregational Church established and incorporated the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FOUNDATION (FCCF), as a separate legal entity, on March 24, 1993, as a not-for-profit corporation. The sole member of the FCCF is the First Congregational Church, and the Church granted the FCCF full authority to administer the funds of the FCCF.

As of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Church, the following are the nine members of the Board of Directors: David Foote, Susan Lemons, James Christopher, Julie McCurdy, Patty Lantrip, Sue Hodge-Parker, Alice Kring, Tom Macy, and Rev. Jay Wilcher.

To fund the FCCF, the members of the Church made legacy gifts to provide monies for it to continue its mission into the future. There are presently eleven (11) funds, ten (10) of which are “memorial endowment funds” and five (5) of which contain restrictions relating to the usage of the funds and/or the time of each expenditure. These funds are used to support the religious, educational and charitable purposes of the church and to support the needs of the church which are not encompassed in the church’s budget. The FCCF manages these funds.

The FCCF is a vehicle for church members to invest in the church’s future. These legacy gifts may take any one of a number of forms from memorials, testamentary trusts, living trusts, charitable donations, bequests, etc. In the coming weeks, The Caller will include information on legacy gifts for your consideration.

ZOOM LENTEN STUDIES SAT. 10AM

DURING LENT, WE WILL USE THE BOOK "WHITE FRAGILITY BY ROBIN DIANGELO AND AND THE BOOK "CASTE - THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS" BY ISABEL WILKERSON, ALONG WITH THE GOSPEL TEXTS FOR EACH SUNDAY

**FEBRUARY 20 10AM - FACING WHITE FRAGILITY
FEBRUARY 27 10AM - DENYING WHITE SUPREMACY**

SERMONS:

**February 21 Mark 1:9-15 Facing White Fragility
February 28 Mark 8:31-38. Denying White Supremacy**

TREASURER REPORT

As of January 31 total income is \$8,159
Total expenses are \$10,101.
Total Expenses exceed Income by \$1,942.

Year-to-date income is at 7% of the income budget of \$122,450.
Year-to-date expenses are at 8% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Many thanks to the following church members and friends who packed at Prescott Community Cupboard during the week of January 11-15, 2021. Your generous service has been of tremendous assistance to the needy of our community:

Don & Kathy Stephens, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Sue Hodge-Parker & Patty Lantrip, Dave & Linda Foote, and Alice Kring & Barbara Frank

Please help the church expand its list of volunteers. Your service would consist of three (3) hours (1:30 to 4:30 p.m.) on only one day during the week assigned to the FCC, which is every seven weeks. Our next week is March 1-5. Angela Imbierowicz will call volunteers usually 10-14 days

before the FCC's week and ask you on which day you will be able to pack. Whether you are available to volunteer during that week is up to you. You are NOT required to serve every 7 weeks -- just when you are available. On your first day of packing, I (or another volunteer) will work with you to show you the procedure. We do not communicate with the public directly -- we only pack the food, and it is distributed by others. We require everyone in the facility to wear masks.

Please contact me if you are available: Angela Imbierowicz, angelaprescottaz@gmail.com, 708-712-1448.

Thank you.

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

We will continue to worship virtually into 2021. We will monitor virus spread and vaccine distribution and decide what month we will open in 2021

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: www.fccprescott.org and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, However, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

Visit our website

Watch Services
Here

